

Attorney Docket: 072257-0311920
Application No.: 09/833,069



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PATENT APPLICATION OF: Bjorn J. Gruenwald
SERIAL No.: 09/833,069
ATTORNEY DOCKET No.: 072257-0311920
FILING DATE: April 12, 2001
ART UNIT: 2172 CONFIRMATION No.: 1466
EXAMINER: Jean M. Corrielus
FOR: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ORGANIZING DATA

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

A statement of reasons for indicating allowable subject matter was attached to the Notice of Allowance mailed February 25, 2005, for the above-identified application.

The Applicant appreciates the Notice of Allowability for all claims of the present application, but would like to note that each independent claim and each dependent claim is separately patentably distinguishable over the references relied upon by the Examiner as such references do not disclose or render obvious the respective combinations of elements in each respective independent and each respective dependent claim.

For example, none of the references relied upon by the Examiner discloses, teaches, or suggests the method for retrieving information from a database organized in a hierarchy having a parent, a first plurality of descendants each having a direct relationship to the parent, and a second plurality of descendants each having an indirect relationship to the parent through at least one of the first plurality of descendants, at least some of the second plurality of descendants having a direct relationship to the first plurality of descendants, according to claim 28, which includes:

locating an occurrence of a search term in either said first plurality of descendants or said second plurality of descendants;

traversing the hierarchy from said occurrence to an instance of the parent using at least one of the direct relationship and the indirect relationship;

traversing the hierarchy from said instance of the parent to an instance of one of the first plurality of descendants using the direct relationship;

traversing the hierarchy from said instance of one of the first plurality of descendants to an instance of one of the at least some of the second plurality of descendants using the direct relationship therebetween; and

building a context corresponding to said occurrence, said instance of the parent, said instance of one of the first plurality of descendants, and said instance of one of the at least some of the second plurality of descendants.

Nor do any of the references relied upon by the Examiner disclose, teach or suggest the method for processing information from a database organized in a hierarchy having a plurality of parents, a first plurality of descendants, and a second plurality of descendants, each of the first plurality of descendants having direct relationships to at least one of the plurality of parents, each of the second plurality of descendants having indirect relationships to at least one of the plurality of parents, at least some of the second plurality of descendants having second direct relationships to at least one of the first plurality of descendants, according to claim 37, which includes:

locating an occurrence of a search term in either one of the first plurality of descendants or one of the second plurality of descendants;

traversing the hierarchy from said occurrence to an instance of one of the plurality of the parents using at least one of the direct relationships or the indirect relationships;

traversing the hierarchy from said instance of one of the plurality of parents to an instance of one of the first plurality of descendants using the direct relationships;

traversing the hierarchy from said instance of one of the first plurality of descendants to an instance of one of the at least some of the second plurality of descendants using the second direct relationships;

locating a second occurrence of the search term in either one of the first plurality of descendants or one of the second plurality of descendants;

traversing the hierarchy from said second occurrence to an instance of a second one of the plurality of the parents using at least one of the direct relationships or the indirect relationships;

traversing the hierarchy from said instance of said second one of the plurality of parents to an instance of a second one of the first plurality of descendants using the direct relationships;

traversing the hierarchy from said instance of said second one of the first plurality of descendants to an instance of a second one of the at least some of the second plurality of descendants using the second direct relationships;

building a first context corresponding to said occurrence, said instance of one of the plurality of the parents, said instance of one of the first plurality of descendants, and said instance of one of the at least some of the second plurality of descendants; and

building a second context corresponding to said second occurrence, said instance of said second one of the plurality of the parents, said instance of said second one of the first plurality of descendants, and said instance of said second one of the at least some of the second plurality of descendants.

Nor do any of the references relied upon by the Examiner disclose, teach or suggest the method for retrieving data from a database corresponding to a search term, according to claim 61, which includes:

organizing the data, based on relationships among the data, into a hierarchy including at least one predecessor group and a plurality of descendant groups, wherein said organizing the data comprises forming a relational table

indicative of relationships between instances of said at least one predecessor group and instances of said plurality of descendant groups;

locating an occurrence of the search term in one of said plurality of descendant groups;

traversing said network from said occurrence in said one of said plurality of descendant groups to related data in said at least one predecessor group using said relationships among the data; and

building a context including said occurrence and said related data thereby retrieving data from the database corresponding to the search term.

Nor do any of the references relied upon by the Examiner disclose, teach or suggest the method for retrieving data from a database corresponding to a search term, according to claim 79, which includes:

organizing the data, based on relationships among the data, into a network including at least one predecessor group and a plurality of descendant groups;

locating an occurrence of the search term in one of said plurality of descendant groups;

traversing said network from said occurrence in said one of said plurality of descendant groups to related data in said at least one predecessor group using said relationships among the data;

traversing said network from said related data in said at least one predecessor group to a plurality of second related data in said plurality of descendant groups using said relationships among the data, said plurality of second related data corresponding to each instance of data in said plurality of descendant groups that is related to said related data;

building a context including said occurrence, said related data, and said plurality of second related data; and

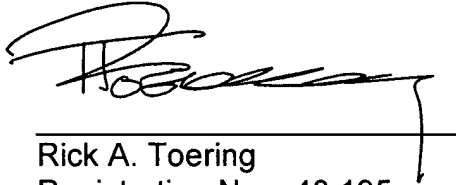
providing the entire context in response to the search term.

These comments, in response to the Examiner's reasons for indicating allowable subject matter, are timely submitted.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975 (Ref. No. 072257-0311920). The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Dated: May 24, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick A. Toering", is written over a horizontal line. A vertical line extends downwards from the right side of the signature.

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RESUBMISSION OF FORMAL DRAWINGS

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Sir:

Applicant submits herewith twenty-five (25) sheets of formal drawings (Figs. 1-25) for the above-identified patent application. These formal drawings were originally filed on November 1, 2001, however, the Examiner never indicated whether these drawings were accepted. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to accept and acknowledge receipt of these formal drawings.

In the event any additional fees are incurred upon the filing of this document, please charge the undersigned's Deposit Account 033975 (Ref. 072257-0311920).

Dated: May 24, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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